

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY **Czechoslovakia** REPORT **[REDACTED]** 25X1

SUBJECT **New Execution Device at Pankrac Prison and Its Inventor** DATE DISTR. **26 September 1955**

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. A new execution device was invented at Pankrac Prison in 1952 by one of the inmates, Dipl. Eng. Emil Benes. The device consists of a table on which the prisoner's body, including the head, is securely strapped. The prisoner lies on his back. A strong spring is released pulling the straps holding the head to the rear and thereby breaking the prisoner's spine. Death is instantaneous. This new device is constructed and installed in an underground bunker at Pankrac Prison.

2. **[REDACTED]** 25X1~~S-E-C-R-E-T~~

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